

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow. Applicants respectfully request that the foregoing amendments be entered at least because they raise no new issues requiring further search or consideration, and because they place the application in condition for allowance.

Claims 3, 6, and 8-10 have been amended. Claims 1 and 5 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter has been added.

This amendment changes and cancels claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 3, 6 and 8-10 are now pending in this application.

Allowable subject matter

Applicants appreciate the indication that claim 3 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 3 has been amended in independent form, and thus is in *prima facie* condition for allowance. Claims 6 and 8 have been amended to depend from claim 3, and thus are likewise in *prima facie* condition for allowance. Claim 10 includes similar, though not identical, limitations to those of claim 3. Nevertheless, claim 10 is likewise believed to contain allowable subject matter, and to be allowable. Claim 9 has been amended to depend from claim 10, and thus is likewise believed to be allowable.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 5-6 and 8-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,156,485 to Tang et al. (hereafter "Tang") in view of EP 0 840 361 A2 to Cheung et al. (hereafter "Cheung"). This rejection is moot in light of the cancellation of claims 1 and 5, and the amendments to claims 6 and 8-9 to depend from independent claims containing allowable subject matter.

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

July 15, 2005

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
Washington Harbour
3000 K Street, N.W., Suite 500
Washington, D.C. 20007-5143
Telephone: (202) 672-5485
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

By

William T. Ellis

William T. Ellis
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 26,874

Thomas G. Bilodeau
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 43,438